

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) A method for signaling in a signaling transfer point, comprising the steps of:

routing signaling messages from source signaling points in a direction toward destination signaling points;

checking at least one of a presence of a loop and a possibility of the presence of the loop over a departing link set ~~to a destination signaling point~~ by at least one of a routing test and a real time method; and

automatically withholding a transfer of said signaling messages via a pertinent linkset ~~to said destination signaling points~~ upon a positive check result outcome of said checking step.

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11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

sending test messages via a link set to destinations that said linkset can reach upon said positive check result outcome; and

automatically withholding transfer of said signaling messages to a destination that had returning test messages upon return of said test messages.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of withholding transfer of said signaling messages to downstream pertinent destinations by blocking a specific departing link set of said pertinent destination in a routing table of said signaling transfer point.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:

withholding transfer of said signaling messages to upstream pertinent destinations via the pertinent link set by sending transfer prohibiting messages by the signaling transfer point

regarding a destination signaling point to a preceding signaling transfer point, where upon said preceding signaling transfer point will at least perform one of a functions of rerouting traffic to the destination signaling point and stopping said traffic to the destination signaling point.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of controlling an interruption of said loop by an operations maintenance and administration part.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of controlling an interruption of said loop by a message transfer part.

c' 16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of checking a new current route for absence of loops in the signaling transfer point, immediately after blocking a linkset in said loop.

17. (Previously presented) A signaling system of a signaling transfer point, comprising:  
a checker for detection of at least a loop or a possibility of a presence of said loop over a departing linkset to a destination signaling point, said checker utilizes at least one of a routing test and a real time method, wherein when a positive check result outcome is obtained transfer of signaling messages via pertinent linksets are automatically withheld.

18. (Previously presented) A signaling system according to claim 17, further comprising:  
a verifier for detection of said possibility of the presence of said loop, said verifier sends test messages to destinations reachable via said departing linkset before said signaling system withholds said transfer of signaling messages to a destination for which said test messages return.

19. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said checking is by a routing test.

20. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said checking is by a real time method.

21. (New) The signaling system of claim 17, wherein said checker utilizes a routing test.

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22. (New) The signaling system of claim 17, wherein said checker utilizes a real time method.

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**RGC**

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